

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10

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H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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TAGS: GATT ETRD EEWT PL

SUBJ: POLISH TRADE REGIME AND EAST EUROPEAN VIEWS ON INTERNA-
TIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. POLISH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR (JODKO) INFORMED US TODAY THAT IT NOW HIGHLY LIKELY POLAND WILL INTRODUCE CUSTOMS TARIFF BY END OF THIS YEAR. HE SAID HE WANTED US TO HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE AND TO ASK WHETHER WE HAD ANY POSITION ON MATTER. HE SAID SUBJECT LIKELY TO COME UP AT NEXT MEETING OF GATT WORKING PARTY OF POLISH ACCES- SION, WHICH HE NOW EXPECTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER. HE SAID POLAND CONSIDERS TARIFF WOULD BE USEFULECONOMIC INSTRUMENT AND FROM INTERNATIONAL POINT OF VIEW WOULD PROVIDE POSSIBILITY POLAND GIVING RECIPROCITY IN MTN AND REPLACING CURRENT GATT IMPORT COM- MITMENTS WITH TARIFF CONCESSIONS. WE STATED WE WOULD REPORT IN- FORMATION TO WASHINGTON AND REQUEST REACTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT. WE ASKED JODKO WHETHER TARIFF WOULD DISCRIMINATE IN FAVOR OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES TO WHICH HE HAVE FUZZY REPLY SUGGESTING POLAND MIGHT HAVE TO DO THIS EVEN IF IT DIDN'T WANT TO. HE STATED HOW-
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EVER QUESTION STILL OPEN. WE ASKED ABOUT LIKELY PROFILE OF TAR-

IFFS TO WHICH HE RESPONDED THAT THERE WOULD BE GENERAL TENDENCY TO HAVE HIGHER RATES ON MORE HIGHLY PROCESSED PRODUCTS.

2. CONCERNING NEXT MEETING OF GATT WORKING PARTY ON POLISH ACCESSION, HE SEEMS ANTICIPATE ROUTINE RE-RUN OF PAST MEETINGS WITH POLAND REPEATING ITS STANDARD PLEA FOR ELIMINATION OF EUROPEAN DISCRIMINATORY QRS BUT WITHOUT ANY REAL RESULTS. JODKO DID NOT EVEN BOTHER TO ASK THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT POLISH CASE ON THIS AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST.

3. DURING COURSE OF DISCN HE ASKED OUR VIEWS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ON ENERGY AND COMMODITIES AND RECENT UN EXPERTS' REPORT ON REFORMING ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE UN. HE NOTED MANY KEY TOPICS BEING CONSIDERED OUTSIDE NORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND INDICATED CONCERN OF EASTERN COUNTRIES TO BE INVOLVED. IN VIEW OF THIS HE INDICATED BASIC SYMPATHY OF EASTERN COUNTRIES WITH MAKING ECONOMIC SIDE OF UN MORE EFFECTIVE, BUT RECOGNIZED THAT UN DEBATES NOW TAKEN UP ESSENTIALLY WITH LDC DEMANDS AND THAT UNLESS THIS BASIC SITUATION CHANGED STRUCTURAL REFORM WOULD NOT MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE. IN RESPONSE HIS QUERY RE U.S. ATTITUDE TO "GARDNER REPORT", WE SAID USG WAS STUDYING. WE EXPECTED ONE OF OUR MAJOR CONCERNS WOULD BE PROTECTING AUTONOMY OF GATT. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT CAN FURNISH ON US VIEWS ON GARDNER REPORT. CONCERNING ECE, HE CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS DOING GOOD TECHNICAL WORK BUT DID NOT SEEM TO CONSIDER IT COULD BE FORUM FOR MORE FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING BOTH EAST AND WEST. RE GATT, HE CONSIDERED MTN NEGOTIATIONS TOO TECHNICAL AND SLOW MOVING TO ATTRACT MUCH ATTENTION FROM POLICY OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, HE CONSIDERED LONG'S PROPOSED GATT MANAGEMENT GROUP MIGHT PROVIDE USEFUL FORUM FOR KIND OF ECONOMIC POLICY DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING EASTERN AND WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT HE FAVORED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN MANY CASES EASTERN ROLE IN WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS MINIMAL BUT ARGUED ON OTHER HAND THAT SUCH INVOLVEMENT GROWING. IN POLAND'S CASE, OVER 50 PERCENT OF ITS TRADE NOW WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES.

COMMENT. WE ASSUME WASHINGTON IS BEARING IN MIND BASIC POLITICAL ADVANTAGES TO US OF SOMEHOW INVOLVING AT LEAST SOME EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN CURRENT ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS ON SUCH TOPICS AS ENERGY AND COMMODITIES TO EXTENT COMPATIBLE WITH ACHIEVEMENT OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.DALE

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